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Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 11, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 5 totaled an estimated 19.4 billion ton-miles, 21.1 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The 1980 week included the Labor Day holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 36 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 639.1 billion ton-miles, 1.6 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended September 5 totaled 450,161 cars, 16.1 percent above 1980, but 1.4 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 29.5 percent in the East, and 10.3 percent in the South, and 11.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 14 of the 21 commodity groups were up. Coal loadings totaled 135,197, an increase of 27.9 percent over last year.

Fourteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended August 29 totaled 34,576 cars, up 3.7 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 64,417 trailers and/or containers, up 5.3 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 35 weeks of the year was 1,135,382 cars, 1.4 percent higher than last year, and 2,052,275 trailers and/or containers, 0.6 percent higher than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/5/81:

	Loadings in Week ended September 5, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,102	I	226	0.8	I	1,901	7.0
Other farm products	2,705	D	52	1.9	D	418	13.4
Metallic ores	36,376	I	9,610	35.9	I	181	0.5
Coal	135,197	I	29,488	27.9	D	4,678	3.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,422	D	141	1.1	D	612	4.7
Nonmetallic minerals	12,706	D	2,668	17.4	D	917	6.7
Grain mill products	13,982	D	1,213	8.0	D	236	1.7
Food and kindred products	15,896	D	82	0.5	I	59	0.4
Primary forest products	17,301	I	1,356	8.5	D	1,638	8.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,961	D	173	2.4	D	624	8.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,868	I	2,153	12.2	I	539	2.8
Chemicals and allied products	26,420	I	3,063	13.1	I	26	0.1
Petroleum products	5,295	I	411	8.4	D	43	0.8
Stone, clay and glass products	13,572	D	1,017	7.0	I	287	2.2
Coke	6,750	I	3,141	87.0	D	185	2.7
Metals and products	16,236	I	4,311	36.2	I	730	4.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	12,797	I	689	5.7	D	149	1.2
Waste and scrap materials	11,817	I	2,657	29.0	D	5	0.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,022	I	983	10.9	D	18	0.2
All other carloads	44,517	I	9,642	27.6	D	702	1.6
LCL traffic	219	I	75	52.1	D	37	14.5
Total Cars Loaded	450,161	I	62,459	16.1	D	6,539	1.4
Corresponding week of 1980	387,702						

	1981	1980		% Change
Total Cars Loaded (36 weeks)	15,066,511	15,588,303	D	3.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
35 Weeks cumulative	619.7 (Revised)	613.0	I	1.1
Week ended September 5	19.4	16.0	I	21.1
36 Weeks cumulative	639.1	629.0	I	1.6

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